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STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 33rd to 35th, 39th and 45th meetings, on 16 to 18 and 23 November and 6 December 1993. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.33-35, 39 and 45). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).

3. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster (A/48/406);

(b) Letter dated 22 June 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the appeal to parliaments, Governments and the international community issued by the participants in the International Conference on the Scientific and Practical Aspects of Medical and Social Problems and the Role of

the Sanatorium and Spa System in Improving the Health of the Population Exposed to the Effects of Radiation as a Consequence of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and of Other Radiological Disasters, held on 10 and 11 February 1993 (A/48/218-E/1993/96);

(c) Letter dated 24 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Japan Economic Summit, held in Tokyo from 7 to 9 July 1993 (A/48/353-S/26372).

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 16 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/48/SR.33).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/48/L.19

5. At the 39th meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Belarus introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster" (A/C.2/48/L.19), on behalf of Barbados, Benin, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, Namibia, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine, subsequently joined by Armenia, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Israel, Latvia, Mexico and Poland. In the course of his statement, the representative of Belarus orally revised the first and third preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution by deleting the references to General Assembly resolution 47/165 of 18 December 1992.

6. At the 45th meeting, on 6 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland), informed the Committee of the following revisions to the draft resolution made on the basis of informal consultations:

(a) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "in particular the Commission of the European Communities" were inserted after the words "and other organizations";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "the activities related to the follow-up to its" were replaced with the words "his efforts in the implementation of";

(c) In operative paragraph 2, the words "United Nations as a catalyst, existing" were inserted before the words "coordination mechanisms".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.19, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990 and 46/150 of 18 December 1991,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July, 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and decision 1993/232 of 22 and 30 July 1993,

Taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of resolutions 45/190 and 46/150,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by Member States and by organizations of the United Nations system in the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the activities of regional and other organizations, in particular the Commission of the European Communities, as well as bilateral activities and those of the non-governmental sector,

Bearing in mind the communiqué on the meeting of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, held at Minsk on 26 May 1993, 1/

Recognizing the importance of providing international support to the ongoing national efforts to mitigate and minimize the radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, taking into consideration the subsequent social, economic and other changes that have occurred in the countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/165 of 18 December 1992 and the conclusions of the analytical review of all United Nations activities to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, 2/

1/ See A/48/406, chap. II, sect. B, para. 16.

2/ A/48/406.

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of resolutions 45/190, 46/150 and 47/165 and, in particular, to continue to maintain close contacts with the Commission of the European Communities and regional and other relevant organizations, with a view to encouraging the regular exchange of information, cooperation, coordination and complementarity in the multilateral and bilateral efforts in those areas, while implementing programmes and specific projects;

2. Invites the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of a further exchange of information between the United Nations as a catalyst, existing coordination mechanisms and Member States on the activities related to Chernobyl;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fiftieth session, under a separate agenda item, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.